

BOOK NOTICE

A Textbook of Arthropod Anatomy. By R. E. Snodgrass. Comstock Publishing Associates. Cornell University Press. Ithaca, New York, 1952. $9\frac{1}{4} \times 6$ inches. x + 363 p. 88 figs. \$6.00.

This textbook of arthropod anatomy that was published December 15, 1952 is a concise, authentic, descriptive account of the comparative anatomy of arthropods and the author's name and reputation constitute a warranty of the book's excellence. A chapter is devoted to each of the eleven classes of arthropods. Preceding the description of the general anatomy of the examples in each class there is a discussion of the antiquity of each class, its resemblance to other groups, distinguishing characteristics and those common to other groups, food habits, etc., which serves to introduce the groups, especially the lesser known ones. The eleven chapters deal specifically, for the most part, with the general external structure of a trilobite; a king crab; an eurypterid or aquatic animal of the Paleozoic era; the sprawling, leggy pycnogonids that live in the sea; a scorpion, a spider and a tick of the Arachnida; three crustaceans, shrimplike Anaspides, a crayfish, and the isopod *Ligyda exotica*; four true centipedes, the common house centipede, a species of *Lithobius*, *Otocryptops sexspinosa* and a geophilid; a polydesmoid and a juliform diplopod; the minute Pauropoda; the Symphyla; and the Diplura, Thysanura, and the cockroach in the Hexapoda. A list of references, and subject and author indexes complete the attractively printed and bound volume. There are 88 "figures" or plates containing more than 640 line drawings, most of them by the author. Although the author's studies have led him to the interesting conclusion "that the facts of arthropod structure are not consistent with any proposed theory of arthropod interrelationships," this has no bearing upon the scope of the book and its descriptions and illustrations covering external and in many cases, internal anatomy. With such a lucid text and so many adequate drawings, together with specimens, it would seem that one could almost dispense with instructors. However it should be invaluable in classrooms to both students and instructors.—

H. B. WEISS.